

MARVEL

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X-MEN LEGENDS #4



X-MEN LEGENDS

CYCLOPS, MARVEL GIRL, BEAST, ICEMAN, ANGEL. They were the original five X-Men -- the first students of Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. After many escapades as the X-Men, the five eventually left the team and went their separate ways, until fate brought the gang back together again as X-Factor.

After numerous adventures, which saw Angel destroyed and reborn as **APOCALYPSE's** metal-winged horseman, Death (before his redemption), and the team's "adoption" of Apocalypse's sentient **SHIP**, among other events, X-Factor's relative peace was interrupted by Ship's strange, uncontrollable transformations. Barely surviving the sudden deadly contortions (with the team inside!), X-Factor barely caught their collective breath in time for an attack by a mysterious robot -- which, unbeknownst to them, is piloted by their believed-dead enemy, the mutant-hating **CAMERON HODGE!**

Editor's Note: This story takes place before X-Factor (1986) #43.



SCOTT
SUMMERS
CYCLOPS



JEAN GREY
**MARVEL
GIRL**



BOBBY
DRAKE
ICEMAN



HANK
McCOY
BEAST



WARREN
WORTHINGTON III
ARCHANGEL



**CAMERON
HODGE**



EN SABAH NUR
APOCALYPSE



CALIBAN

**WALTER SIMONSON
& EDGAR DELGADO**

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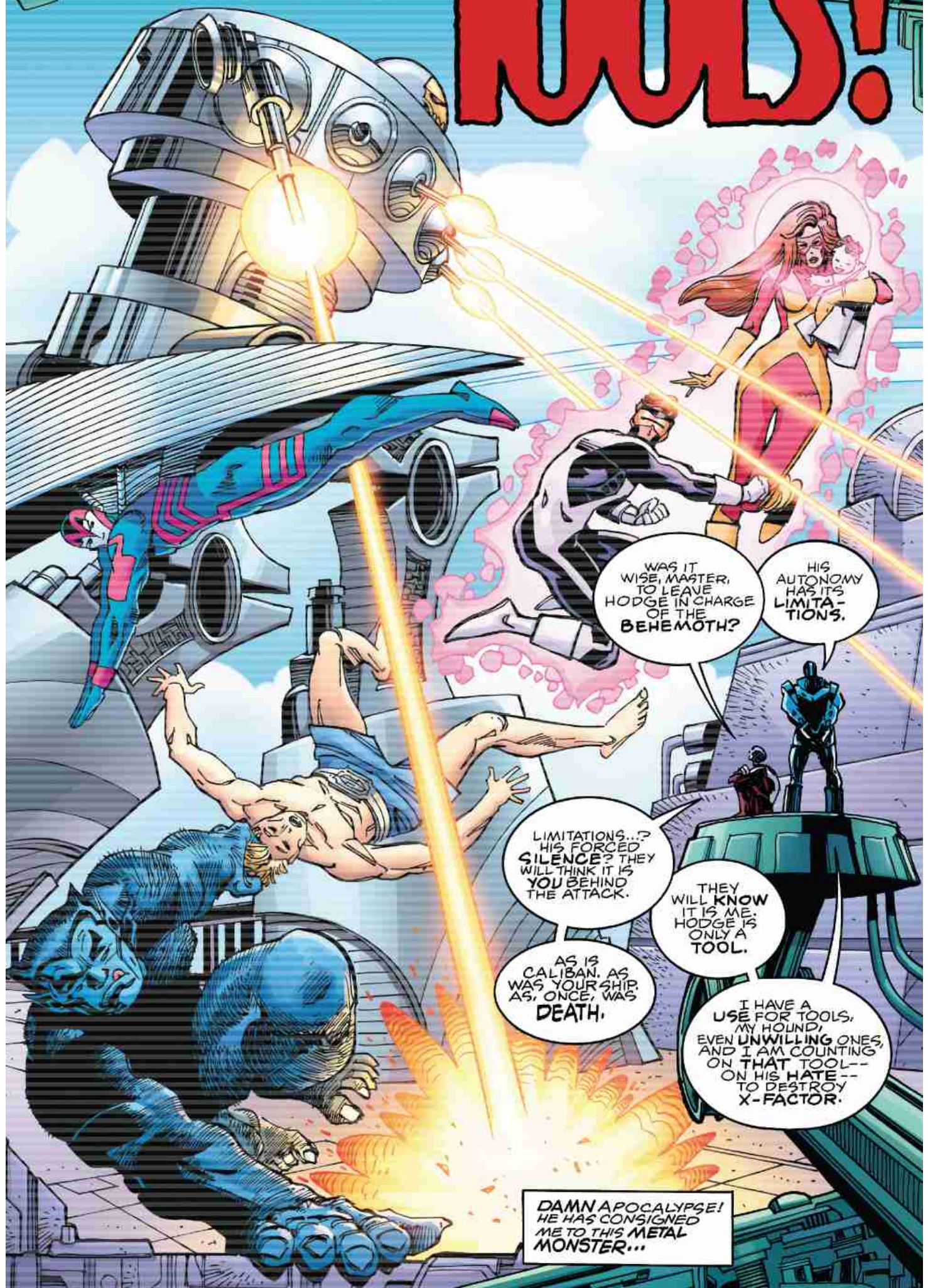
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X-MEN CREATED BY **STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY**

TOONS!



WAS IT WISE, MASTER, TO LEAVE HODGE IN CHARGE OF THE BEHEMOTH?

HIS AUTONOMY HAS ITS LIMITATIONS.

LIMITATIONS...? HIS FORCED SILENCE? THEY WILL THINK IT IS YOU BEHIND THE ATTACK.

AS IS CALIBAN. AS WAS YOUR SHIP. AS, ONCE, WAS DEATH.

THEY WILL KNOW IT IS ME. HODGE IS ONLY A TOOL.

I HAVE A USE FOR TOOLS, MY HOUND, EVEN UNWILLING ONES, AND I AM COUNTING ON THAT TOOL-- ON HIS HATE-- TO DESTROY X-FACTOR.

DAMN APOCALYPSE! HE HAS CONSIGNED ME TO THIS METAL MONSTER...

...UNABLE TO GIVE VOICE TO MY HATRED. BUT MY ACTIONS WILL SPEAK MORE ELOQUENTLY THAN ANY WORDS. AND, WHEN THIS IS OVER, APOCALYPSE WILL PAY!

SHIP! CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING?

I AM SORRY, ICEMAN. I CANNOT MOVE AGAINST THE ROBOT. I CAN BARELY MOVE AT ALL.

KA-BOOM!

WHATEVER IS CAUSING THE STRANGE DATA OUTPUT IS USING TOO MUCH OF MY ENERGY NOW... SLOWING MY REACTIONS TO A NEAR STANDSTILL.

SOMETHING IS VERY WRONG.

THANKS, WE KINDA FIGURED THAT OUT FOR OURSELVES!

JEAN! WHATEVER HAPPENS, PROTECT CHRISTOPHER!

WITH EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING!



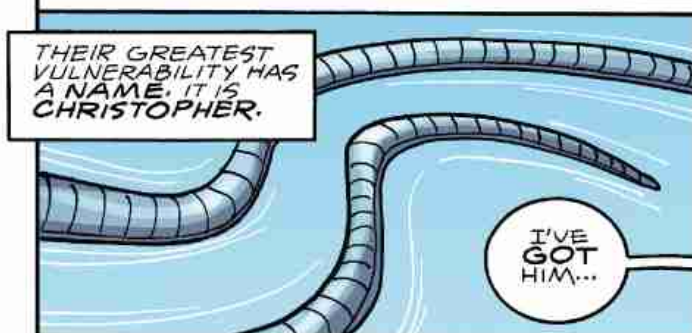
WHRAMP!



BUDDA
BUDDA



BUT ALSO THEIR
VULNERABILITIES.
AND HOW TO
EXPLOIT THEM.



I'VE
GOT
HIM...



MAYBE
THIS
WILL
HELP!



--AS I AM USING
HIM, TO DESTROY
THOSE I HATE!

WHAMPA!

WATCH
IT, CYKE!





IN THIS BEHEMOTH, HE HAS HANDED ME A POTENT WEAPON, CALIBRATED TO ENSURE X-FACTOR'S DEMISE.

BY SHIFTING THE ARMORED PLATES, I CAN AIM **RICOCHETS** FROM CYCLOPS'S OPTIC BLASTS AT OTHERS. AND THERE IS MORE.



IT IS MY BRIEF TO DESTROY THEM ALL.



SCOTT! YOUR BLASTS ARE GOING WILD!



BUT WORTHINGTON, ONCE APOCALYPSE'S DEATH, IS MY PRIORITY.



THE OTHERS ARE SECONDARY TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY, AND I SHALL KILL THEM ALL...

...BUT MY HATRED IS FOR WARREN.

DROP HIM, MONSTER!



WARREN! I CAN'T BUDGE IT! I CAN'T FREE YOU!

NO SWEAT,
JEAN! I'VE
GOT
THIS!

FIRST SHIP
GOES MAD!
THEN THIS!
APOCALYPSE
MUST BE TO
BLAME!

SCHWAK!

FOR ONCE, WARREN, LOOK
BEYOND THE OBVIOUS!
APOCALYPSE GAVE ME
THE TOOL! BUT THE FURY
YOU FACE IS MY OWN.

SCHWANGG!

THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK
THIK

STILL, A
DISTRACTION
WOULDN'T BE
AMISS...

I'VE
GOT
THEM!

HAVE
YOU?

THWAK
THWAK
THWAK
THWAK
THWAK
THWAK

DAMN! JUST
DEFLECTED
THEM! JEAN,
INCOMING!

REPULSOR
FIELD'S TOO
STRONG! CAN'T
STOP THEM!
CAN'T--



THE ARMOR.
THE DARTS--
SO LIKE MY
WING
BLADES.

IT MUST BE
APOCALYPSE!

I'M NOT
CONVINCED.
BUT IT
WOULDN'T
HURT--

--TO CHECK
UNDER THE
HOOD TO
MAKE
SURE!

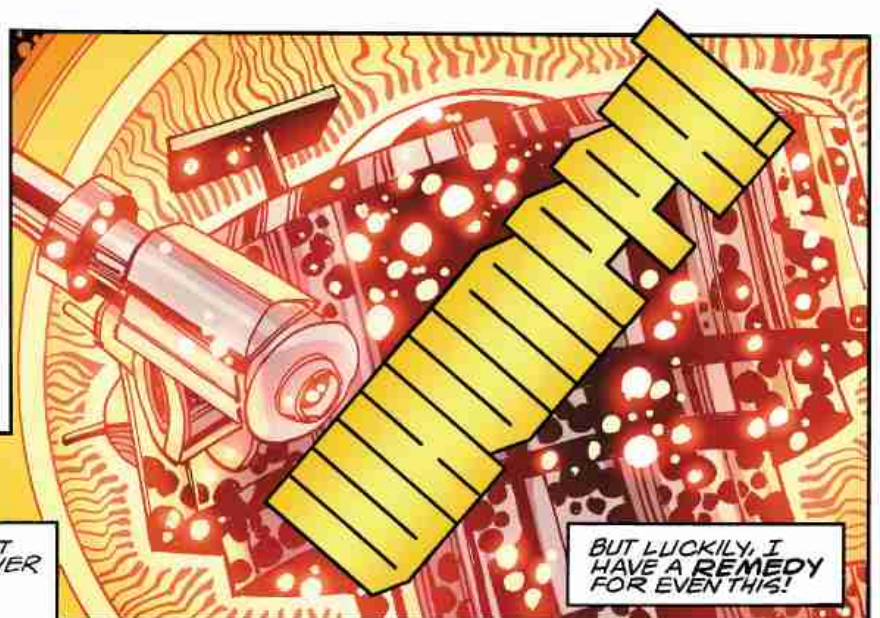
RIPP

BUT PERHAPS
IT'S WISEST
NOT TO LET
HIM TRY.

KLUHAM!

IN THIS FORM, BEAST
HAS REGAINED HIS
INTELLIGENCE. SO
SURELY HE REALIZES,
STRONG AS HE IS, HE
CAN'T DISMANTLE ME.

AKKH!
BOBBY!
YOUR BELT!
DIAL IT UP!





AKKH!

HANK!
WARREN! GRAB
CHRISTOPHER!



"SOME SAY THE
EARTH WILL END
IN FIRE..."



YOUR WORLD,
ICEMAN, AT
ANY RATE.



AND SO THE
CHILD--THIS
SON OF
MUTANTS--



--IS AS
GOOD AS--



NO!

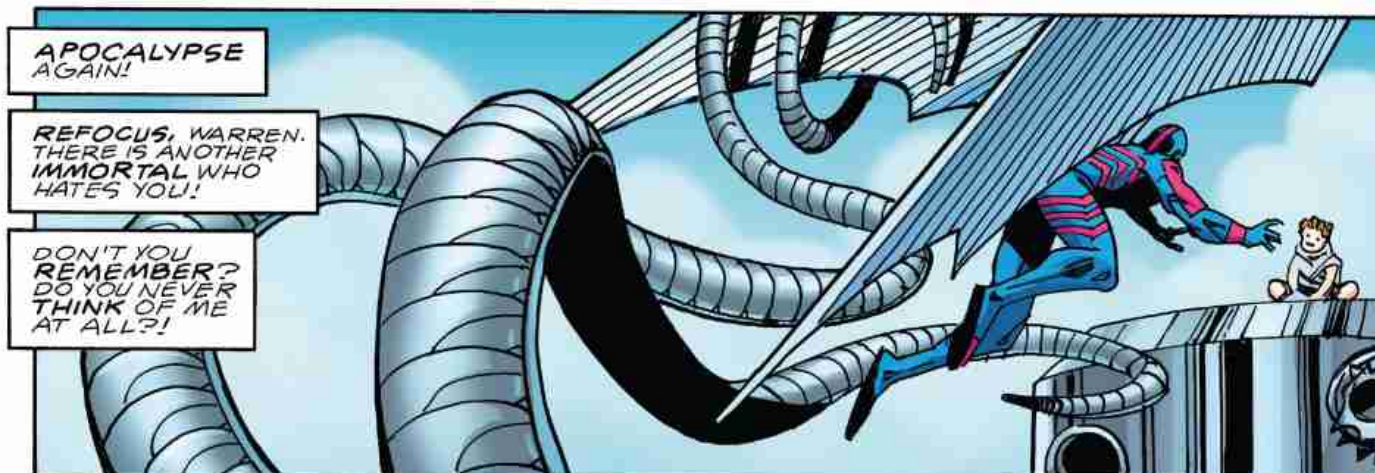
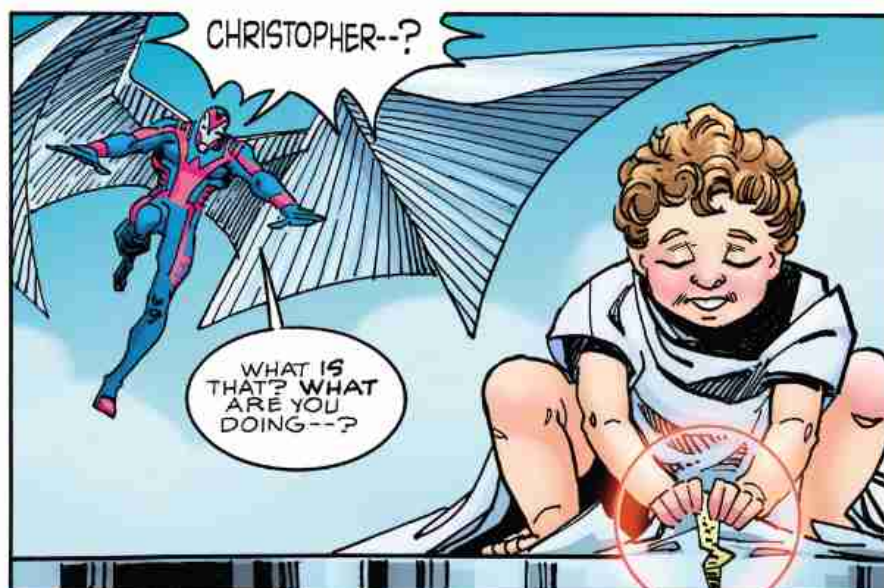
THE CHILD
HIMSELF IS A
MUTANT.

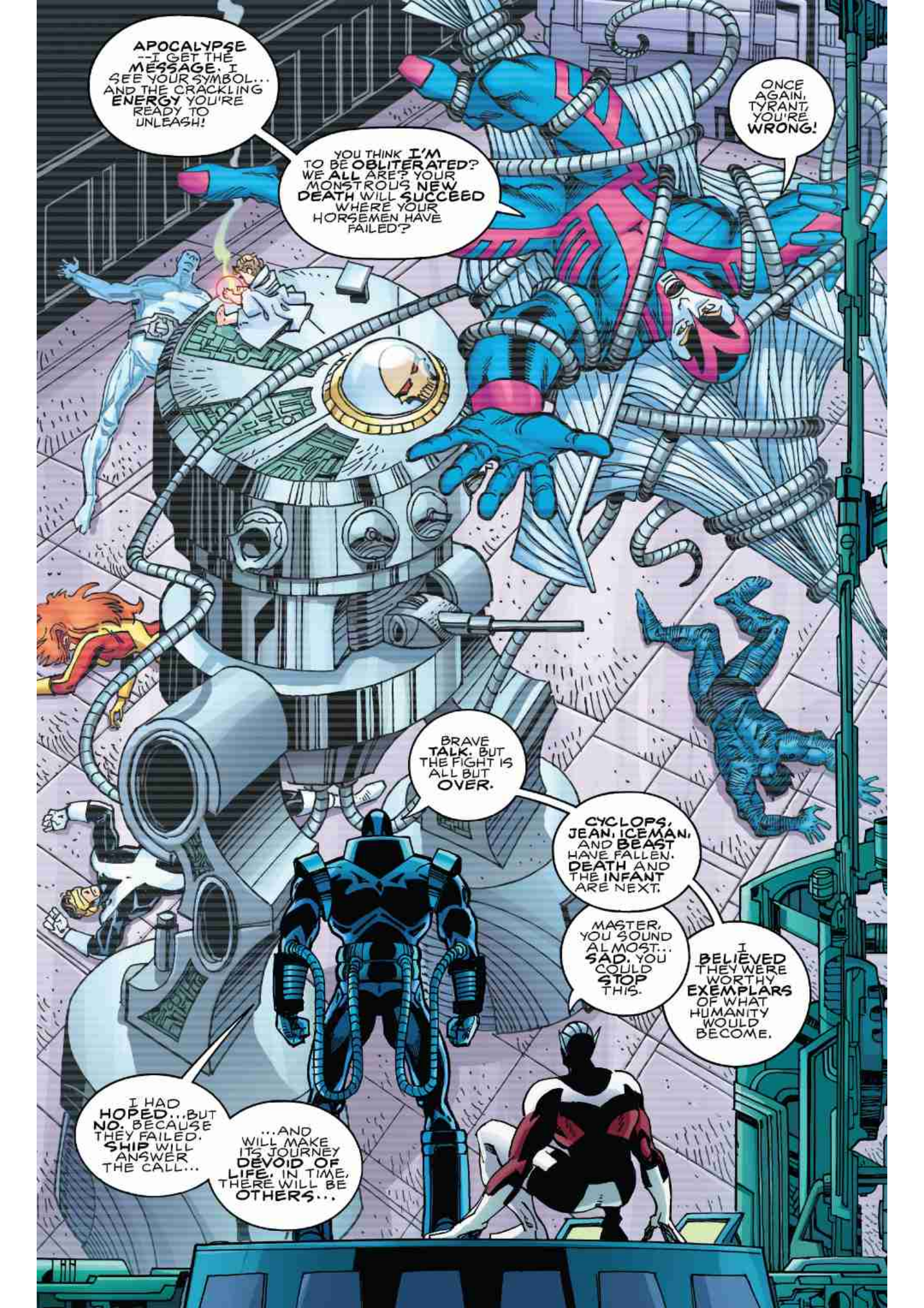


...ALREADY
REVELING IN
HIS TRUE
NATURE!

THAT SHOULDN'T
BE POSSIBLE.

NOW HE, TOO, MUST BE
DESTROYED, ALONG WITH
THE OTHERS. A WELL-
PLACED BARRAGE
SHOULD--





APOCALYPSE
--I GET THE
MESSAGE. I
SEE YOUR SYMBOL...
AND THE CRACKLING
ENERGY YOU'RE
READY TO
UNLEASH!

YOU THINK I'M
TO BE OBLITERATED?
WE ALL ARE? YOUR
MONSTROUS NEW
DEATH WILL SUCCEED
WHERE YOUR
HORSEMEN HAVE
FAILED?

ONCE
AGAIN,
TYRANT,
YOU'RE
WRONG!

BRAVE
TALK. BUT
THE FIGHT IS
ALL BUT
OVER.

CYCLOPS,
JEAN, ICEMAN,
AND BEAST
HAVE FALLEN.
DEATH AND THE INFANT
ARE NEXT.

MASTER,
YOU SOUND
ALMOST...
SAD. YOU
COULD
STOP
THIS.

I
BELIEVED
THEY WERE
WORTHY
EXEMPLARS
OF WHAT
HUMANITY
WOULD
BECOME.

I HAD
HOPED...BUT
NO. BECAUSE
THEY FAILED,
SHIP WILL
ANSWER
THE CALL...

...AND
WILL MAKE
ITS JOURNEY
DEVOID OF
LIFE. IN TIME,
THERE WILL BE
OTHERS...

HANK! I'M
KINDA BUSY
HERE!

WAKE
UP! GRAB
CHRISTOPHER!
HE'S...UP
THERE!

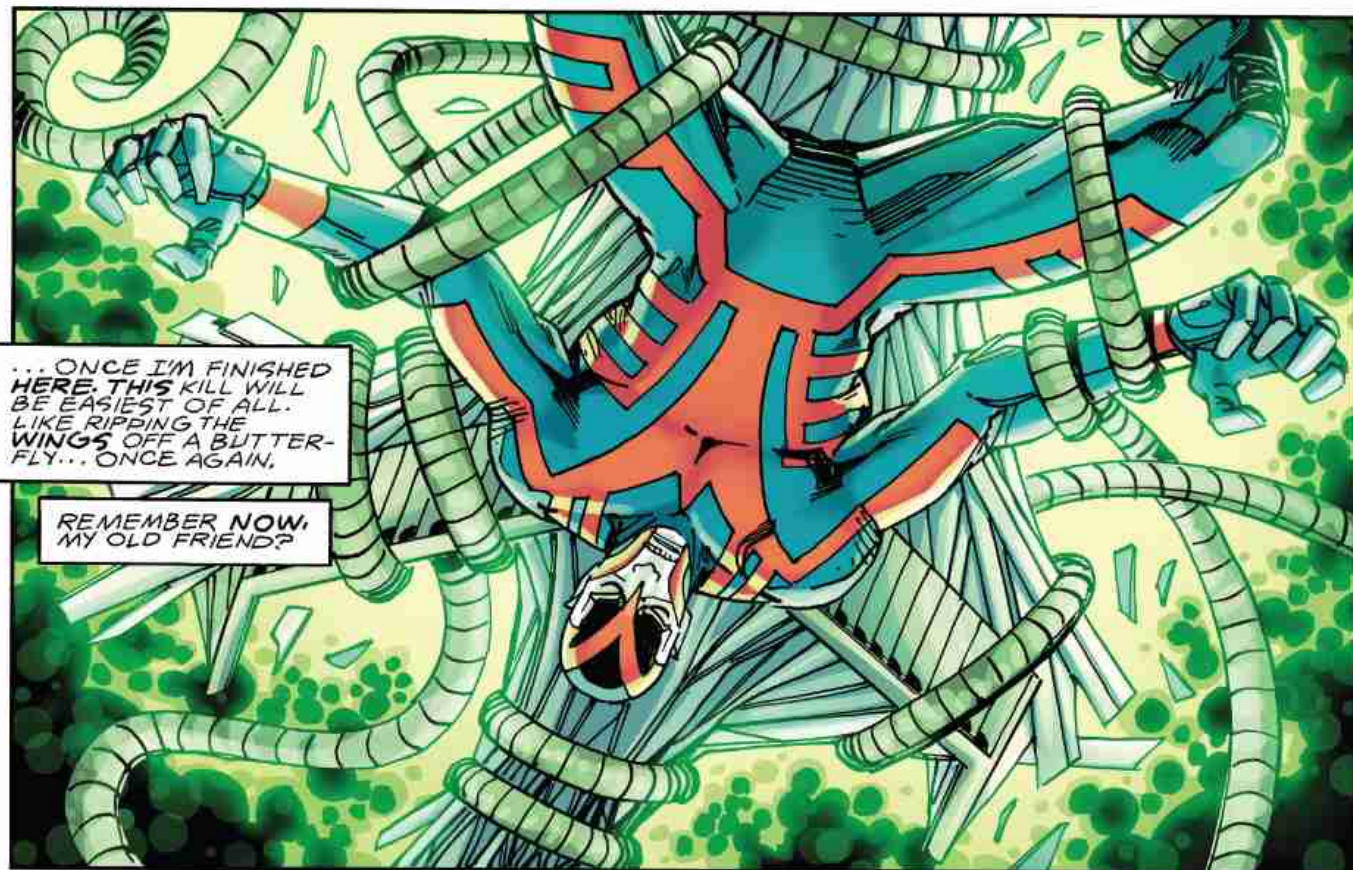


CHRISTOPHER?
WHAT?
WHERE?



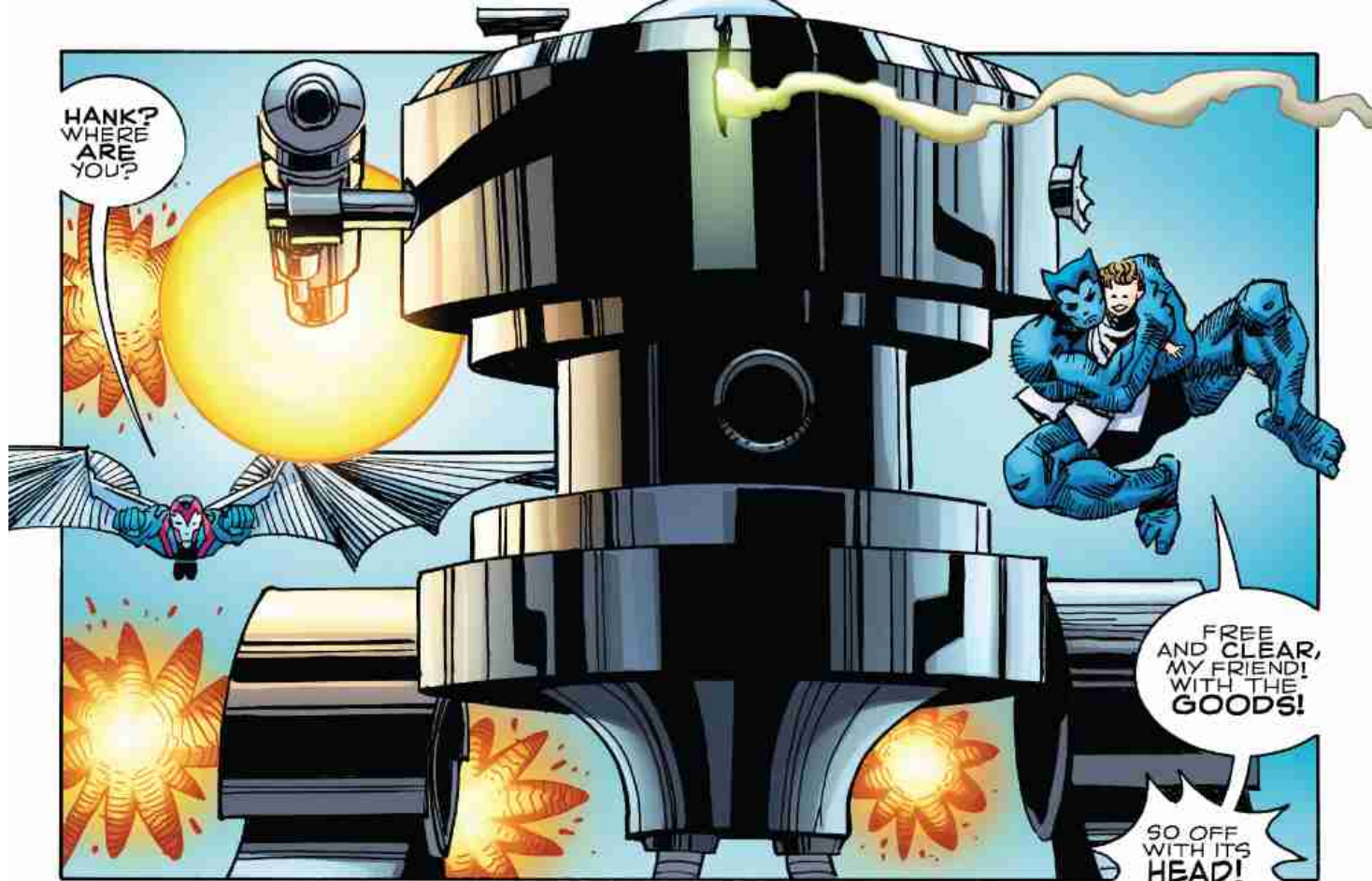
GEEZ! YEAH!
OKAY! I'M...
ON IT!

NOT SO DEAD,
AFTER ALL. NO
MATTER. YOU
WILL BE...



... ONCE I'M FINISHED
HERE, THIS KILL WILL
BE EASIEST OF ALL.
LIKE RIPPING THE
WINGS OFF A BUTTER-
FLY... ONCE AGAIN.

REMEMBER NOW,
MY OLD FRIEND?



HANK?
WHERE
ARE
YOU?

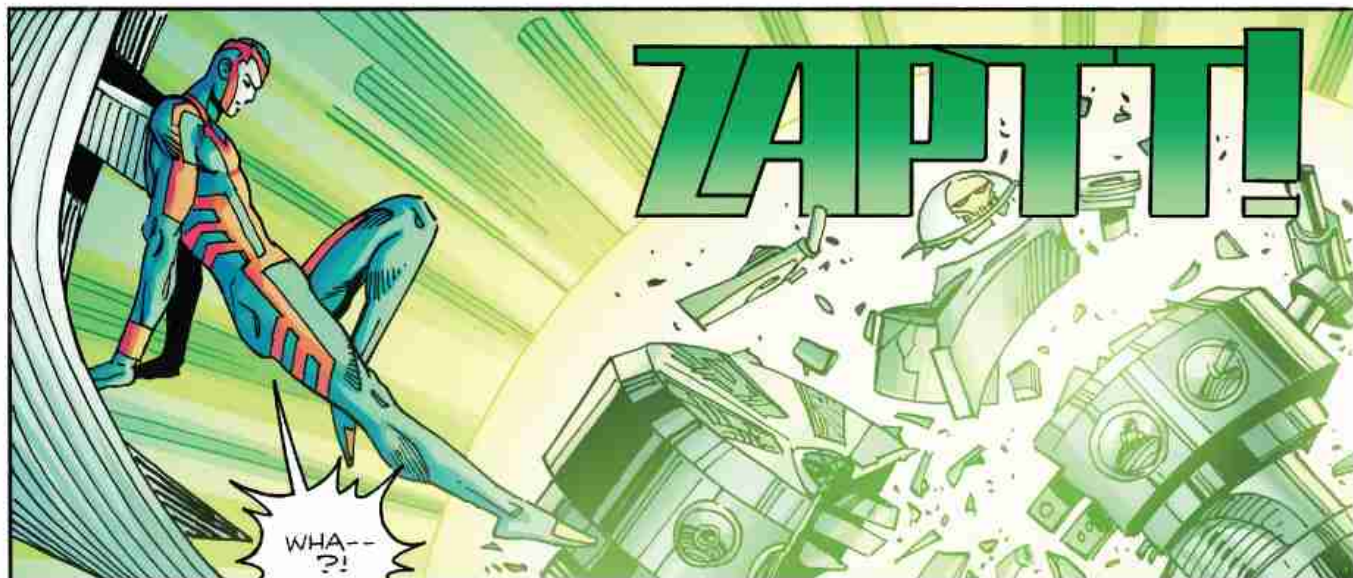
FREE
AND CLEAR,
MY FRIEND!
WITH THE
GOODS!

SO OFF
WITH ITS
HEAD!



N0000000!

SLASH-KGKG!
KWA-KWHOMB!



I'VE BEEN WATCHING GENOSHA CLOSELY. HUMANS THERE HAVE MADE MUTANTS THEIR SLAVES.



ARE THE MANY MUTATES NOT OF GREATER INTEREST THAN THESE FIVE SPECIMENS?

SIX... COUNTING THE CHILD.

ALL MUTANTS MUST DIE.



AND YET, AS TOOLS, MUTATES MAY HAVE THEIR USES.



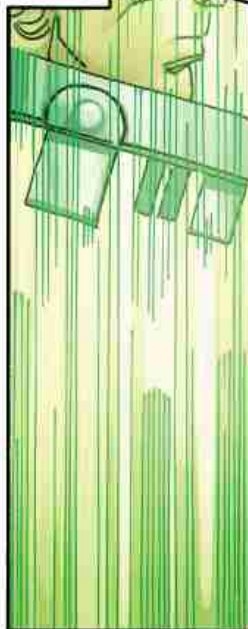
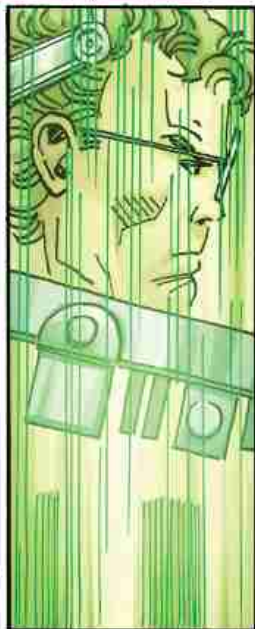
THEY MAY, INDEED.



I PROMISE TO GIVE THE MATTER...

...SOME THOUGHT.

FIZAPT



FAREWELL, HODGE. MAY YOUR HATRED OF MUTANTS PROVE AS USEFUL TO ME IN THE FUTURE AS IT HAS IN THE PAST.

YOU... LET HIM ESCAPE?

TO RETURN TO THE RIGHT.

WHERE HE WILL REMAIN YOUR TOOL.

OF COURSE, HIS ATTACKS WILL, IN TIME, FORCE MUTANTS TO GROW STRONGER.

BUT HE FAILED... AND X-FACTOR SURVIVES...



"...DOES THIS MEAN YOU, TOO, HAVE FAILED?"

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANY MORE ABOUT THE DATA SHIP'S SENDING?

WORKING ON IT. GETTING NOWHERE.

BUT...LISTEN, WHEN I REACHED CHRISTOPHER, IT LOOKED LIKE HE WAS **GLOWING**. CAN HE HAVE A **FORCE FIELD**?

I DOUBT IT. HE'S AN INFANT, HANK. TOO YOUNG TO MANIFEST POWERS.

PROBABLY. HE WAS LIT BY THE GLOW FROM THE ROBOT'S ENGINE...

...OR WHATEVER WAS DRIVING THAT THING.

IT WAS **APOCALYPSE**. HE CREATED IT. HE SENT IT AFTER US. HE MUST BE **FURIOUS**. WE'D TAKEN HIS SHIP. **FURIOUS** I'D TURNED ON HIM.

WELL, THE ROBOT CERTAINLY CAME ARMED AGAINST US. AND ITS ATTACK NEARLY WORKED...UNTIL IT WENT TOO FAR.

AND A DOZEN OTHER CLICHÉS. BUT TRUE, NONE-THELESS.

MAYBE. THESE DEMON WINGS MAY NOT BE A COMPLETELY BAD--

HE KNEW US. KNEW MY WORST FEAR...THAT I WOULD NEVER FLY AGAIN.

THREATEN WHAT A MAN HOLDS DEAREST?

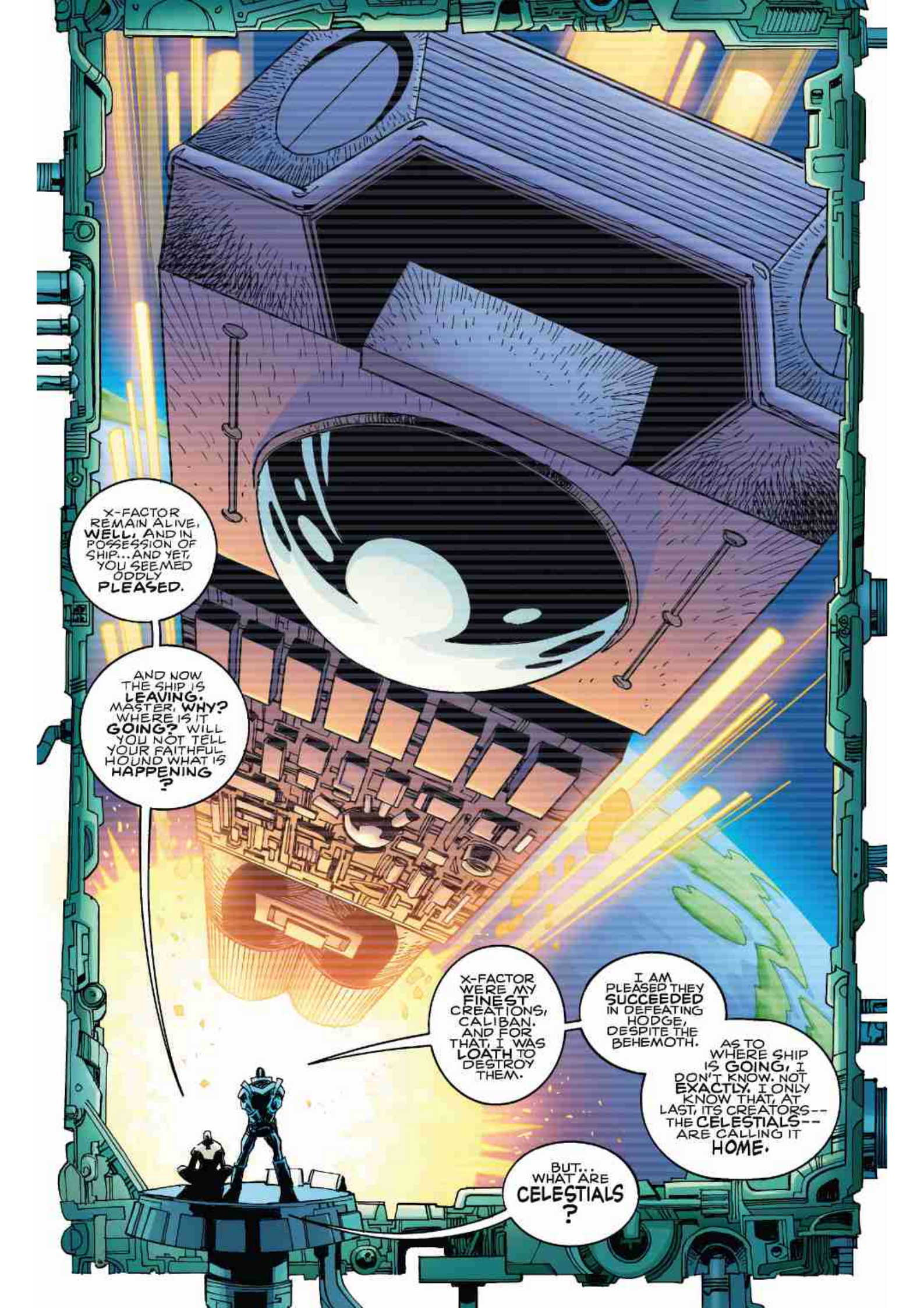
WHAT DOESN'T KILL US MAKES US STRONGER?

--HUH?!

SHIP?!

NOT AGAIN!

WHAT THE HELL?!



X-FACTOR
REMAIN ALIVE,
WELL, AND IN
POSSESSION OF
SHIP...AND YET,
YOU SEEMED
ODDLY
PLEASED.

AND NOW
THE SHIP IS
LEAVING.
MASTER, WHY?
WHERE IS IT
GOING? WILL
YOU NOT TELL
YOUR FAITHFUL
HOUND WHAT IS
HAPPENING?

X-FACTOR
WERE MY
FINEST
CREATIONS,
CALIBAN.
AND FOR
THAT, I WAS
LOATH TO
DESTROY
THEM.

I AM
PLEASED THEY
SUCCEEDED
IN DEFEATING
HODGE,
DESPITE THE
BEHEMOTH.

AS TO
WHERE SHIP
IS GOING, I
DON'T KNOW. NOT
EXACTLY. I ONLY
KNOW THAT, AT
LAST, ITS CREATORS--
THE CELESTIALS--
ARE CALLING IT
HOME.

BUT...
WHAT ARE
CELESTIALS
?

"GIANT BEINGS, MY HOUND. JUDGES WITH THE POWER TO DESTROY WORLDS THEY DEEM UNWORTHY. ANGELS. PERHAPS EVEN GODS.

"I MET THEM...LONG AGO. AND I...TOOK THE SAMPLING DEVICE THEY LEFT BEHIND FOR MY OWN. FOR A TIME, IT BECAME MY SHIP, AND IT TAUGHT ME... MANY THINGS.

"WHEN I GAVE IT TO X-FACTOR, I PLANNED TO SEND THEM TO THE CELESTIALS AS EXAMPLES OF THE BEST EARTH HAD TO OFFER.

"I HOPED THIS MIGHT BUY EARTH TIME BEFORE THEY RETURNED AGAIN TO JUDGE, AND POSSIBLY DESTROY, HUMANITY.

"I HOPED THOSE PROMISING SAMPLES MIGHT PUT OFF THEIR ARRIVAL FOR ANOTHER CENTURY OR TWO.

"NOW IT IS OUT OF MY HANDS. IF THE CELESTIALS FIND THEM OF INTEREST, IT MAY BUY THE EARTH THE TIME IT NEEDS FOR MORE OF THE STRONG TO EMERGE...



"...AN ARMY OF MUTANTS WITH THE POWER TO DEFEND THIS PLANET, SHOULD IT PROVE NECESSARY.

"IF NOT, THEN I MAY WELL HAVE CONDEMNED THE EARTH...

"...AND ENSURED OUR WORLD'S DESTRUCTION."

END

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NEXT:

X-MEN LEGENDS #5



We hope you enjoyed Louise and Walter's return to X-FACTOR these past two issues! Now, after decades, you finally have the background to the infamous JUDGMENT WAR storyline beginning in X-FACTOR #43! This X-Factor/Celestial epic is one you owe to yourself to pick up, if you haven't already. And, just because we're honoring these past stories, we're going to make you work for it—this legendary tale is not currently in print, so you'll have to find it the old-fashioned way and dig into your local comic shop's or convention's back issue bin to complete your collection!

Next month, we zip a few years forward in X-FACTOR lore, as Peter David returns to place his own missing piece of the puzzle to his run on the legendary X-team! Joined by Todd Nauck and Rachelle Rosenberg, this is another LEGENDS tale you can't afford to miss! See you then!

-- Mark

